



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

In the Shade

Vol. 33, No 2 • July, 2009



This photo by Ralph Barrera of the *Austin American Statesman* shows Alonzo Vasquez, an independent tree worker from Austin, competing in the Texas Tree Climbing Championship's secured footlock event. This event measures contestants' ability to perform a vertical ascent of 49 ft. 2.5 inches (15 meters) into a tree using the footlock rope-climbing method on a doubled climbing line.

To see more *American Statesman* photos from the TTCC, go to the *Statesman* Photoblog at:
<http://photoblog.statesman.com/2009/05>

For our own article and photos from the TTCC, see pages 8 and 9 in this issue of *In the Shade*. There are more TTCC photos on our website at: http://www.isatexas.com/Members/TTCC/2009_TTCC_Pics.htm



President's Corner by John Giedraitis

GALVESTON'S URBAN FOREST POISONED BY IKE

THIS WEEK I TOURED AN URBAN FORESTRY CATASTROPHE – tens of thousands of dead and dying trees on Galveston Island. Eight months ago Hurricane Ike swept across the island breaking limbs and heaving trees. But the real devastation came from the salty surge that rushed in from the Bay and sat for a day or two on most of the island. At first, the tree leaves were shed or turned brown. Experts were called in to assess the tree damage and their advice was to flush the sandy soil to wash out the salt and wait to see what would happen in the spring. Well spring came and went, and tens of thousands of the trees were still damaged or dead.

In the meantime, FEMA funding was running out and no one really knew the numbers or extent of the tree removals. The Texas Forest Service was called in and did a quick 5% survey of the trees for the City of Galveston. We found 10,800 dead street trees and over 31,000 dead private trees. The survey found that palms were the most tolerant and sycamores the least tolerant of salt water. It also found that the dead and dying public trees along the streets had a pre-storm value of about \$48.6 million. In addition, we found about 27,500 potential street tree planting sites and estimated the cost of street tree removal at about \$2.2 million. The City quickly sent these results to FEMA who granted an extension for tree debris removal until this September – but at 75% instead of 100% payment.

This week we met with federal, state and local officials, members of the new citizens' Tree Committee and the media to tour the island and talk about what to do next. As our bus went down street after street of tree skeletons, the extent of the disaster quickly sunk in on the group. We saw that the urban forest that was replanted after the 1900 hurricane is now mostly destroyed. The City, the Tree Committee, FEMA and TFS will start next week to mark the trees for removal and the FEMA contractor will remove them from the streets, parks and other public areas. The work must be completed by the FEMA deadline of mid-September. If you have a chance, you may want to take a trip down and see this operation.

As the dead trees are removed, the reforestation efforts are beginning. This past Arbor Day, locals planted the first public trees with funds raised from our Texas Tree Conference last fall. This is the beginning of a multi-year replanting effort to plant over 50,000 trees. I was proud that ISAT was there to help.

While on the tour this week, I asked folks from the Galveston Parks and Recreation Department if they would like to have ISAT come down for a volunteer work day and they thought that was a great idea. If you and/or your company are interested in helping out, just drop me a line at jgiedraitis@tfs.tamu.edu

You can view some of the pictures of the Galveston tree survey and tour at:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/jpg104/GalvestonTreesHurricaneIke#>

John Giedraitis
President

Urban Trees Can Be Pollution Monitoring Stations

Researchers believe any tree in a city could act as a pollution monitoring station.

UK researchers say that urban trees act as sentinels, using their leaves to measure microscopic particles of pollution. They are so precise in this task that Professor Barbara Maher and a group of scientists at the University of Lancaster are turning to them as reliable, street-level pollution monitors.

Maher's team measured pollution based on magnetic signatures from tiny bits of iron in the particles. They found that lime trees scattered throughout Lancaster gradually collected particles over a period of seven to 10 days, until they accurately reflected ambient levels of pollution.

"If trees prove useful as biomarkers for pollution, this could result in a major breakthrough for pollution sensing,"

says Associate Professor Michael Jerrett of the University of California, Berkeley.

The whole story by Michael Reilly is at the Discovery News website:

<http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2009/05/18/tree-leaves-pollution.html>

In the developed world, particulate air pollution claims hundreds of thousands of lives each year.

Digital Range Maps of Tree Species Available for Download from USGS

Mark Duff of TFS says this is one of the best webpages he's ever seen

Range maps of North American tree species, originally compiled by Elbert Little of the U.S. Forest Service and others (see references on the site), were digitized for use in the US Geological Survey's vegetation-climate modeling studies. These digital map files are available for download at <http://esp.cr.usgs.gov/data/atlas/little/>

Because the intent was to digitally reproduce the maps in their original

form, all scientific names are the same as published in the original reference, even though some have since been changed.

The maps are available in ArcView® shapefile format and also as PDFs. Mark recommends checking out the PDFs.

At present, not all of the maps have been digitized, quality checked, and made available here, but USGS plan to make most or all of the digitized maps available over time.

OUR NEWSLETTER COMES IN TWO FLAVORS!

In the Shade comes in a print edition, delivered right to your mailbox but unfortunately not in color, and a downloadable pdf edition that's *in color* and has *clickable links* to all the websites in each article. You can download it at:

<http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Newsletter.htm>.

Previous issues are also available, going back to 2004.



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Advanced Appraisal Workshop Launches New Masters Series of Classes:

Workshop Tackles Complexities of Tree Appraisal

by Heather Brewer

ISAT recently launched a new series of classes—the Masters Series—to help prepare Certified Arborists for the Board Certified Master Arborists exam. The initial classes consisted of a two-day Advanced Tree Appraisal workshop in Georgetown May 13 and 14, featuring lectures by Scott Cullen, Registered Consulting Arborist. Cullen is a contributor to the 9th edition of the *Guide for Plant Appraisal* and a leading authority on tree appraisal theory.



Scott Cullen was the speaker at the recent Advanced Tree Appraisal workshop in Georgetown Texas.

The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for the practicing tree appraiser to study new ideas and to address specific questions. While the workshop was oriented towards experienced tree appraisers—in keeping with the Masters Series theme—much of the information discussed was useful to lay enthusiasts and to beginning and intermediate-level professionals.

I was particularly impressed with the complexity, and in some cases subjectivity, of tree appraisal theory. While such complexity exceeded my original expectations, Cullen and the group discussion presented these ideas in a stimulating and engaging fashion.

Cullen emphasized both abstract concepts and concrete applications of tree appraisal theory. More than simply an estimate of monetary value, tree appraisal involves thinking about the present value of future worth. Once a tree appraiser has mastered the ability to perceive value through this hybrid, present-future lens, he must confront the difficulties associated with presenting and defending his work to the civil court system.

Cullen discussed several basic questions and scenarios that should be considered prior to the execution of any appraisal work:

What is the purpose of the appraisal? It may be:

- to assist in the mediation of a dispute between parties A & B
- to establish baseline values prior to construction activities
- to substantiate adjustments in tax valuation
- to determine insurance limitations, etc.

The approach to report presentation may vary depending on why the appraisal is being performed.

Who is my client? It could be:

- the insurance company
- an insured
- an attorney
- the state
- an estate, etc



Jim Carse (City of Round Rock), O.B. McCown (City of Austin), Michael Embesi (City of Austin), Daniel Duncum (Texas Forest Service), and Emily King (City of Austin) all enjoying the City of Georgetown community center courtyard.

Continued on next page

Tree Appraisal Workshop

Continued from previous page

The appraiser should define the assignment prior to beginning the project. Is the assignment to determine value only, or is it to speculate on cause of loss and to determine value? If it is simply to determine value, speculation on anything else confuses the report. The appraiser must have a clear understanding of the scope of the task in order to present a clear, concise and defensible work.

What about the utility of traditional appraisal methods, such as the Trunk Formula Method and the Replacement Cost Method, in relation to location rating? A veteran tree appraiser raised the question, “Where does the landscape end in relation to the location rating?” Is it within the lot lines of the one property or is it off over the top of a nearby mountainside that adds aesthetic beauty to the property in question? As with many things related to tree appraisal, where the landscape ends is subjective.

The forum also discussed the effects of large-tree moving on the tree appraisal field. Increasingly, arborists can simply use values provided by moving companies that specialize in large trees as a real cost of replacement. If a 15” bur oak can be replaced with one of identical size, is it reasonable to consider the replacement cost is the real value of the loss? There are still limitations to this approach because some trees are too large to move, or too rare, or will not have the same sentimental value as the peach tree that your father planted the day you were born.

There was a mildly heated group discussion about the Texas Supplement to the *Guide for Plant Appraisal*. Questions were asked on how some tree percentages were arrived at, like why live oaks receive a 100% rating when oak wilt is such a problem in Texas. In the end an open invitation was extended to those interested in helping with the next revision of the Texas Supplement. The Texas Supplement most likely will not be revised until the 10th edition of the guide comes out, which Scott guessed would be at least another five years or so.

It was clear from the conversations in the class that arborists need to have more dialogue with real estate appraisers and the appraisal industry at large. The value of a tree is always tied to real estate. That is a solid reason for arborists to put down the D-tape and go shake a real estate appraiser’s hand over lunch or perhaps invite some to the next tree conference.

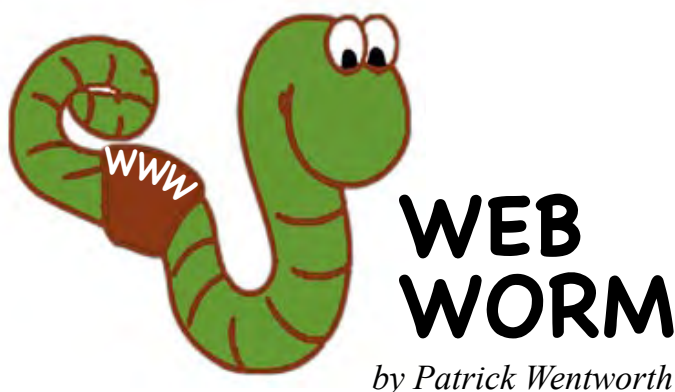
There seem to be so many questions, and vagueness to using the guide. However, if arborists do not try to appraise trees, to whom will the job fall?



Jerry Pulley (Tree Clinic), and Markus Smith (Just Trees) enjoyed the shade and some conversation during a break from the workshop.



Walter Passmore (City of Austin), Mickey Merritt (Texas Forest Service), and Matt Weaver (Texas Forest Service) are obviously just waiting for lunch.



<http://phytosphere.com/CaUFC/UFMgmtToolkitInfo.html>

Urban forestry management plan tool kit. (Note: project suspended due to California budget crisis; site still has some good information and links.)

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/regional_monitoring/

NOAA regional climate maps.

http://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/downloads/sod_diagnostic_report_final.pdf

How to diagnose Sudden Oak Death (SOD).

http://www.oakwilt.com/chemjet_brochure.html

Australia's answer to tree injection devices.

<http://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/downloads/AandUF2007.pdf>

ISA Journal of Arboriculture – phosphite + PentraBark® treatment for SOD.

<http://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/downloads/AgriFosBrochure.pdf>

Agri-Fos® (for treating SOD) brochure.

http://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/downloads/PentraBark_Brochure_3_fold.pdf

PentraBark® brochure.

<http://www.apsnet.org/online/common/>

American Phytopathological Society database of plant diseases searchable by common names.

<http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/>

Online guide for identifying plant diseases from Oregon State University Extension.

<http://plantclinic.cornell.edu/treeshrub/index.htm>

Disease fact sheets on trees and shrubs from Cornell University.

News from the World of Pests

Summary of 2008 Forest Pest Research Projects

In 2008, three primary research project areas – tip moth, leaf-cutting ant, and systemic injection - were continued from 2007. Summaries of the results from the systemic injection studies were presented in the May issue of the *PEST* newsletter published by the Texas Forest Service. Results from leaf-cutting ant control and tip moth impact, hazard-rating and control studies will be presented in the next two *PEST* newsletters (July and October, 2009).

End of the Arsenicals

The EPA has reached an agreement in principle with the major manufacturers of the organic arsenicals MSMA, DSMA, CAMA, and cacodylic acid and its sodium salt. This voluntary agreement steadily removes all organic arsenical pesticide uses, except the use of MSMA on cotton, from the market and implements new restrictions to better protect drinking water resources. Phasing out these uses is expected to accelerate the transition to new, lower risk herbicides. By the end of 2009, many existing uses will be phased out and canceled including use on

residential lawns, **forestry**, non-bearing fruit and nut trees, and citrus orchards.

Southern Pine Beetle: Another Year of Low Activity

For the eleventh year in a row, no infestations of the South's most destructive forest pest, the southern pine beetle (SPB), were detected in East Texas, Louisiana or Arkansas in 2008. The results of this year's SPB prediction survey clearly indicate that another low year of SPB activity can be expected in 2009 for Texas and other southern states located west of the Mississippi River.

The items above are excerpts from the May issue of PEST, a quarterly newsletter on forest pest management issues, published by the Forest Pest Management Cooperative, Texas Forest Service. For more information or to receive future issues, contact Donald M. (Don) Grosman, P.O. Box 310, Lufkin, TX 75902, 936-639-8170, dgrosman@tfs.tamu.edu

"Trees are Terrific" and So Are Arbor Day Poster Winners

Each year, Texas Forest Service celebrates Arbor Day with a statewide poster contest, with the winner representing Texas in the National Arbor Day Foundation contest.

This year's theme was "Trees Are Terrific ... in Cities and Towns!" Nearly 7,000 Texas fifth-graders participated in campus-based contests with 214 school winners ultimately being submitted for the state competition.

Judges chose five regional winners including state winner Luis Meza, an 11-year-old at Reed Academy in Houston. Meza was given a framed print of his poster, a \$500 savings bond and art supplies, and a tree was planted in his honor at Reed Academy. Two additional awards also were given out: Artistic Expression and Spirit of Texas.

View the winning state Arbor Day posters at <http://txforestservicetamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=7540>. To see the national winners, go to: <http://www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/winners.cfm>.

The contest is designed to help teachers and students learn about the structural components of a tree and how they function as well as the environmental benefits and products trees provide. It also aims to help students learn the process of photosynthesis.





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A Great Day in the Park: The 2009

The city of Austin rolled out the red carpet for this year's Texas Tree Climbing Championships and mother nature cooperated for a great day in the park. Thirty of the best tree climbers in the state went head to head to find out who is the best tree climber.

Defending state champion Miguel Pastenes of Arborilogical Dallas barely edged out Jimmy Pritchard from Integrity Tree Care by a mere 10 points (of 340 total possible points) to win the title of Texas Tree Climbing Champion of 2009. This was one of the most competitive events we've had as all four finalist of the Master's Challenge successfully completed the climb. David Ruiz and Abram Zies also put on a great display of tree climbing skill in the Master's Challenge event.

Miguel will represent the Texas chapter in the International Tree Climbing Championships in Providence, Rhode Island this month. Last year he finished 6th in the world in the 2008 International Tree Climbing Championships; we're looking forward to a great performance from him again this year.

Special thanks to all the volunteers that worked hard to make this event happen. We couldn't have done it without you! Vermeer of Texas, Poston Equipment, Stihl Blue Mountain, Arbormasters, Arborilogical and They Might Be Monkeys all showed their continued level of support in sponsoring our event again this year. Thank you, sponsors!

—Keith Brown



Texas Tree Climbing Championships



There are more TTCC photos at:
http://www.isatexas.com/Members/TTCC/2009_TTCC_Pics.htm

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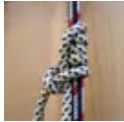
No other product or application method has the history, the research backing, the field testing, or the technical support of Alamo® treatments by Macro-Infusion.



Contact **Shane Hrobar**
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Climbing Lines by Guy LeBlanc, C.A., C.T.S.P. **IT'S ALL IN THE WRIST**

In one of my first pieces for *Climbing Lines*, I was extolling the superiority of handsaws to chainsaws for most pruning work. Safety, precision and environmental considerations were the key benefits I focused on. At the end of that piece I hinted at one of the downsides to handsaw use: repetitive motion injuries. If you are using your handsaw to reduce chainsaw use as much as possible, as I have done for my entire career, you may end up with some joint or tendon problems from all that back and forth.

About a year ago I started to develop severe wrist pain on one edge of my right wrist. I wasn't sure what it was due to, but I suspected a repetitive motion injury from hand saw use because I predominantly use my right hand to cut with. I figured if it was due to footlocking I would have been more likely to have pain in the left, since it is, well, not completely intact. And since I replace my blades frequently, knowing that dull blades can cause excess strain on your hands and arms, I was sure that wasn't the problem.

Then I started looking at the angle of my wrist created when using most modern handsaws, which are nearly identical in terms of the trajectory of the handle from the blade. As you can see in Photo A, the wrist is cocked sideways when pulling on this saw, as you do when cutting. I realized that for most of my career I had used other styles of handsaws which had held my wrist in what I believe is a more ergonomically friendly position. As you can see in Photo B, this wooden-handled saw by ARS maintains my hand straight relative to my forearm: my wrist is not bent or cocked.

Less than a month after switching to the ARS saw, the wrist pain, which had persisted for several months, was completely gone, and I haven't had

a single recurrence. Now obviously this is strictly anecdotal, and could be purely coincidental. Furthermore, I am not a doctor (no, not a tree surgeon either), but I think this was the cause of my problem.

Convinced I was on to something, I contacted two physical therapists: Kim Taylor, an occupational therapist certified in hand therapy in Austin, and Dr. Amanda Carpenter, physical therapist. Dr. Amanda is the sister of Ed Carpenter, long time arborist instructor and ITCC head technician. Together they own C.O.R. Ergonomics, a company which studies the ergonomics of our industry and designs equipment intended to be ergonomically superior, including the new Ergovation saddle.

While I wish I could say that both experts completely concurred with my theory, neither would commit. (You know doctors.) Both agreed that the ARS handle design seemed to hold the hand in a more neutral position,

and therefore *should* be ergonomically superior, but they both said they would have to test the theory before giving a firm opinion.

A local arborist I spoke to about this mentioned that he thought having your pinky set against the "hook" at the base of the handle and pointing your index finger while using the straighter-style handsaw improved its ergonomics. I did not find this to be a marked improvement.

As with saws that have a pronounced "pinky hook," the ARS "right angled" saw handle does definitely have more of a tendency to get snatched out of your scabbard, so keep that in mind while descending, or you may have to go back up after your saw, or worse...

I have found the ARS to also be a very long-lasting saw. It is razor-toothed. I give it one and a half thumbs up.

The author has owned and operated Arbor Vitae Tree Care in Austin, TX for over 25 years. He is available for training seminars in tree care and worker safety and may be reached at 512-301-8700.



Photo A



Photo B

Calendar of Events

July 24-29

ISA 85th Annual Conference and Trade Show
Providence, RI

Be sure to visit <http://www.isa-arbor.com/conference/default.aspx> to get the latest information and special announcements.

August 20

ISA Certification Test, Round Rock

Information and application form available on <http://www.isatexas.com/>. The application must be in the ISA office 12 working days prior to the exam.

September 30 - October 2

2009 Texas Tree Conference & Trade Show, Round Rock

Location: Austin Marriot North (<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ausno-austin-marriott-north>). Theme: "Trees & Risk." Highlights: Dr. Ed Gilman, Professor of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida; TCIA certified tree safety specialist training; ISA certified arborist exam; tree worker safety training; local and

national tree care vendors & exhibitors; Texas Hold'em Tournament; and ISA bookstore. Keep watching <http://www.isatexas.com/> for details.

October is National NeighborWoods Month

National NeighborWoods Month is a campaign to celebrate trees and raise awareness of the value of urban forests. Everything you need to know to plan a NeighborWoods event is at the new NeighborWoods Month website, sponsored by the Alliance for Community Trees: <http://neighborwoodsmoonh.org/>

Trees: a Homeowner Headache?

If a tree falls in the forest, you may not hear it.

However, if your tree falls into a neighbor's yard, you may never stop hearing about it. Disputes involving trees are more common than many people realize and typically fall into two categories:

- "My neighbor's tree is damaging my property and my quality of life."
- "My neighbor is complaining about my trees."

Residents on both sides of these disputes often wonder how to resolve the situation legally and in their favor. Experts say such problems are as old as the Bible, and the solutions often require the wisdom of Solomon.

"Trees have been involved in disputes since time immemorial," says Garrett Power, a professor at the University of Maryland's School of Law. "There is an ancient body of law regarding a landowner's rights to views, light and air. Plus, we have simple and primitive rules of property rights, trespass and negligence dating from the earliest societies."

Over the centuries, property rights have grown more complicated, thanks to urbanization, community standards, civic responsibilities and the covenants, conditions and restrictions (CCRs) of homeowners' associations.

The laws regarding trees vary from one community to the next, but some simple and straightforward advice from experts is available in this article by Robin Martin, available from the *Wall Street Journal* Real Estate Archives at <http://homes.wsj.com/homegarden/20041122-martin.html>.

The article gives some basic advice on how to resolve tree disputes, starting with polite, amicable discussion and ending with going to court – but only as a last resort!

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- > CLICK sherrilltree.com
- > DRIVE to Vermeer Stores



Tree News from the Dallas Area

The Dallas City Council was briefed by the Corps of Engineers on June 3 regarding the structural integrity of the Trinity River levees and the potential removal of 2,800 trees: http://dallascityhall.com/council_briefings/briefings0609/USCorps_060309.pdf

The following Associated Press article discusses the issue as it relates to Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/31191870>

Mr. Brad Watson with Channel 8 briefly covered the issue as well as the Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee's public stakeholder meeting: http://www.wfaa.com/sharedcontent/dws/wfaa/latestnews/stories/wfaa090609_mo_tress.655a15df.html

The UFAC stakeholder meeting was a great success. Many thoughtful suggestions were provided on our proposed tree ordinance changes by a diverse group of attendees, and also by email. (See news item at right, which includes a link to the proposed tree ordinance changes.)

Dallas Morning News columnist Jacquielynn Floyd covered earthquakes recently but also brought up the “tree-huggers and rednecks” at odds over trees in Austin’s Barton Springs. Our committee is involved in an indirect manner due to recent conversations with tree care experts in Austin, as well as our connection with the previous Dallas Urban Forester, Mr. Walter Passmore: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/localnews/columnists/jfloyd/stories/DN-floyd_16met.ART0.State.Edition2.50be29e.html

As you may recall, the Mayor and City Manager of Irving participated in the “Mayors Tree Climbing Challenge” a few years ago. To review a current tree preservation issue in Irving, click the following link: <http://www.southirvingpoa.org/>

...and the Irving City Council considers preserving trees: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/052909dnmetirvforest.41dea22.html>

Information on significant regional trees can be found on the Texas Tree Trails website, and we hope others around the state will consider this type of effort: www.TexasTreeTrails.org

Recommendations from the committee regarding sustainable landscape concepts for the street medians in front of Dallas City Hall can be found on our list serve under “Young Street Proposal”, at the end of the list: www.DallasTrees.org/lisfiles.asp

A&M scientists now refute the “water hog” myth behind cedars: <http://www.treecoalition.org/juniperstudy.htm>

—Steve Houser, Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee Chair

Dallas Revising Tree Ordinance for Cleaner, Greener Neighborhoods

As the City of Dallas continues its march towards becoming a more sustainable city, one document could have important ramifications in helping Dallas become cleaner, greener and more beautiful.

The document is the Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee's (UFAC) draft recommended changes to Article 10 of City Code, otherwise known as the Landscape and Tree Preservation Regulations. The changes – unveiled at a June 15 public hearing – will affect how Dallas neighborhoods beautify in the next decade.

After working with development industry representatives and urban forest advocates for two years, the Committee is receiving citizen comments on the proposed changes, which are intended to help lessen the tension over the existing ordinance and allow the building of more tree-covered neighborhoods.

Many tree advocates criticize the current 1994 ordinance for failing to have a strong tree preservation component, thus allowing for large trees to be removed with little consideration for conservation. Likewise, building industry leaders contend the ordinance limits affordable construction by burdening specific development properties. The Committee feels its proposed changes address the concerns of both groups.

An editorial in the *Dallas Morning News* expresses approval of most of the proposed changes, with some reservations: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/opinion/editorials/stories/DN-trees_20edi.State.Edition1.1dc93b1.html

To review the recommendations go to www.DallasTrees.org. Comments may be emailed to Bill Seaman, Development and City Codes Team Leader for the Committee, at wm.seaman@tx.rr.com. A final draft of the proposed changes is expected to be completed by the end of July.



Cool Tools by Patrick Wentworth

Carry your Laptop Around



More and more people are using laptop or notebook computers in the field. Several devices have been invented to mount a laptop in your truck or car, and many inventive tree guys have crafted some sturdy homemade car-desks for their laptop computers.

Now a little inexpensive device allows you to carry your laptop around in the field and make notes, write proposals, etc. It's called the Connect-A-Desk. It connects to you with a shoulder harness – kind of

like a backwards papoose board. It's available at Amazon.com or from the Connect-A-Desk web site.

The Connect-A-Desk:

- Includes the laptop harness & desk, everything you need to use your laptop computer while standing.
- Works with any size laptop, notebook, or tablet computer.
- Adjusts to fit any size person.
- Is quick and easy to put on and take off.
- Is ergonomically designed for comfort.
- Is truly mobile and portable – no need for a laptop cart or stand.
- Fits into most computer bags.
- Has a detachable non-slip desk surface.
- Has an adjustable safety strap to protect your laptop.

Check it out here:

<http://connect-a-desk.com/>.

Suggested retail price is only \$39.95.

Digital Field Guide Under Development

THE traditional way to identify an unfamiliar tree is to pull out a field guide and search its pages for a matching description. One day people may pull out a smartphone instead, photographing a leaf from the mystery tree and then having the phone search for matching images in a database.

A team of researchers financed by the National Science Foundation has created just such a device — a hand-held electronic field guide that identifies tree species based on the shape of their leaves, said Peter N. Belhumeur, a professor of computer science at Columbia and a member of the team.

The field guide, now in prototype for iPhones and other portable devices, has been tested at three sites in the northeastern United States, including Plummers Island in Maryland and Central Park in New York, said W. John Kress, a research botanist and curator at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, who is also on the research team. The computer program compares the leaf snapshot to a library of leaf images.

“We believe there is enough information in a single leaf to identify a species,” he said. “Our brains can’t remember all of these characteristics, but the computer can.”

This entire article by Anne Eisenberg appeared in print in the *New York Times* and is online at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/10/business/10novel.html?_r=1&scp=3&sq=novelties&st=cse

Talking Trees in the Bronx? Ya Gotta Be Kiddin’

Artist Katie Holten has transformed a section of the Bronx into a “tree museum” as part of a centennial celebration of the Bronx Grand Concourse.

Commissioned by local organizations including the Bronx Museum of the Arts, the tree museum consists of 100 “talking” trees along a four-and-a-half-mile path. Each tree has a unique phone number that passersby can call to hear a recording about some aspect of Bronx history.

The exhibit opened in June and will remain open throughout the summer.

A recent *New York Times* article gives some background:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/07/nyregion/07about.html?_r=1&emc=eta1



The CTSP program helps companies develop and perfect a culture of safety – because when safety becomes part of your organization's culture, safe practices become habit.

Certified Treecare Safety Professional

Improve Your Productivity and Profitability with a Culture of Safety

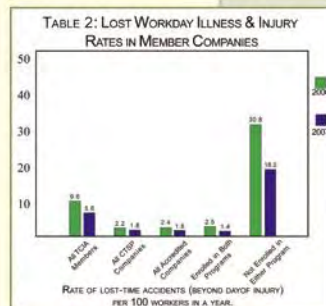
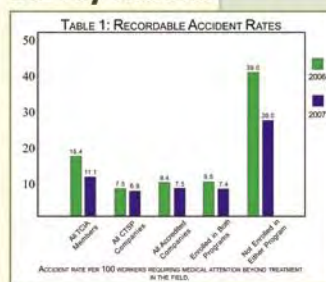
How it works:

One or more employees enroll in the program to become your organization's internal safety trainer(s). They have up to 18 months to complete a study guide with exercises, attend a workshop and pass the certification test.

The benefits to having a CTSP on staff:

- Control at-risk behaviors to reduce accidents and associated costs
- Improve customers' perception of your professionalism through your commitment to safety
- Improve employee morale, productivity, retention and recruitment
- Offer a rewarding new career path for key employees

Survey Results



- **NEW** - TCIA member companies with CTSPs on staff are eligible to be considered for workers comp coverage under the new ArborMAX insurance program.

The results are in.

TCIA Member companies with employees enrolled in the Certified Treecare Safety Professional program are **ten times less likely** to experience a lost workday incident compared with members that do not have a CTSP on staff.

Additionally, members with employees enrolled in the CTSP program are **nearly four times less likely** to experience a recordable accident (one that requires medical attention beyond treatment in the field) than members without a CTSP on staff.

The numbers don't lie... safety-conscious tree care companies that get involved with the CTSP program experience fewer accidents, fewer injuries, and less lost time

– PERIOD.

Upcoming 2009 Workshop

September 29 & 30

Round Rock, Texas, at ISA, Texas Chapter Annual Conference



The CTSP Workshop is the last step in the certification process. Learn more and enroll at **tcia.org**
Or e-mail Irina at kochurov@tcia.org

Call 1-800-733-2622 to begin building your company's safety culture today!

**THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER**

4200 S. Frwy., Ste. 2200
Fort Worth, TX 76115

Phone: 817-926-8203

Fax: 817-871-5724

Email: cblevins@tfs.tamu.edu

www.isatexas.com



PRSR STD
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President

John Giedraitis
Texas Forest Service
301 Tarrow Drive #364
College Station, TX 77840
Phone 979-458-6650
jg@tfs.tamu.edu

Vice-President

Todd Watson
Texas A&M University
MS-2135
Dept. of Forest Science
College Station, TX 77843
Phone 979-458-1753

President-Elect

James Carse
Forestry Supervisor
City of Round Rock, Parks &
Rec. Dept.-Forestry Division
301 W. Bagdad, Suite 250
Round Rock, TX 78664
(512) 341-3368

Editor

Courtney Blevins
Texas Forest Service
4200 South Fwy., Suite 2200
Fort Worth, TX 76115
Phone: 817/926-8203
cblevins@tfs.tamu.edu

Past President

Jordy Hagen
26132 Phillips Place
San Antonio, TX 78620
Phone: 888-873-6241

Board of Directors:

Hans Williams
Professor of Forestry,
Stephen F. Austin State Univ.
MS 6109
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962
Phone 936-468-3301

Keith Brown
Austin Tree Experts
9705 Burnet Rd.
Austin, Texas 78758
Phone 512-996.9100

Nevic Donnelly
They Might Be Monkeys
1414 East 5th Street
Austin, TX 78702
(512) 922-7058

James Tuttle
Tree Loving Care
7704 66th St.
Lubbock, TX 79407
806-785-8733

David Vaughan
Etter Tree Care
7522 N. Vandiver
San Antonio, TX 78209
210-654-8733

Susan Henson
City of Grande Prairie PARD
326 W. Main Street
P.O. Box 534045
Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-4045
972.237.8102

Jim Breau
Personal Touch Tree Care
13422 Bayard Circle
Dallas, Texas 75234
214-328-7273

Pat Wentworth
Austin Tree Specialists
P.O. Box 50061
Austin, TX 78763
Phone: 512-291-8844
Fax: 512-291-8555

Mike Walterscheidt
ISAT Executive Director
242 Monkey Road
Elgin, TX 78621
Phone 512/587-7515
Fax 512/281-3974